

know her to understand her and to understand her was to love her.

Irene departed her natural life on August 1, 2016. Her parents, Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long, her loving sister, Eva Smart, and her niece, Carolyn Smart, all preceded her in death. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her children: Virginia Brown and George Gary; a grandson whom she reared as her own, Donald Gary, all of Lexington, MS; two very dedicated friends Gloria Remus and Ruthie Marshall of Lexington, MS; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; a God granddaughter, Sade Melton; nieces, nephews, cousins, and neighbors whom she loved; family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Irene L. Gary, for her dedication to the community.

COMMENDING THE 2016 BEST OF  
BRADDOCK RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards, presented by the Braddock District Council of Community Associations. These awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations, and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to our community. I am pleased to join the Braddock District Council of Community Associations in recognizing the following Recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards:

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Casey McCollum, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. For 10 years, Ms. McCollum has worked with A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, providing safe and loving care for foster dogs, including pregnant dogs and those rescued from puppy mills and inhumane conditions. Her dedication and unconditional love for the dogs she fosters helps prepare them for their adoptive families and forever homes.

Glen Erickson-Bell, Chapel Hill Civic Association. Mr. Erickson-Bell is the "Steward of Oak Hill Park." When efforts to engage park personnel were fruitless, he took it upon himself to contact Friends of Accotink Creek for guidance. These efforts led to the formation of the Friends of Oak Hill Park which led efforts to clear the trails and clean up the trash so that residents were able to once again enjoy Oak Hill.

Young Person of the Year: Bonnibel Bishop. Since elementary school, Ms. Bishop has been involved in community service. She has traveled throughout the Commonwealth promoting her anti-bullying platform and participated in events for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.) She also has donated her time to various events in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including its Children's Hospital.

CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE  
BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Holy Spirit Transportation Ministry. Richard and Maly Chobot formed the Transportation

Ministry at Holy Spirit Church to help those who need rides to medical appointments or procedures. The entirely volunteer group provides a service that makes a difference in the everyday lives of members in the community.

Boy Scout Troop 1965. In the past year, the 40 Scouts of Troop 1965 have collectively completed more than 800 hours of service projects ranging from conservation projects to construction projects throughout the area. The members of Troop 1965 continue to serve those around them and the greater Braddock District.

Staff, Volunteers and Friends of Kings Park Library. With the closure of Pohick Library for renovation, the Kings Park Library has seen an exponential increase in usage. The dedicated staff, volunteers, and friends of Kings Park Library have worked together to meet the increased demand without sacrificing service, making Kings Park one of the most cherished libraries in the county.

Friends of Oak Hill Park. Instead of sitting back and waiting for someone else to solve a community problem, the Friends of Oak Hill Park took matters into their own hands. They united the communities surrounding Oak Hill Park and launched extensive clean-up and restoration projects, transforming it into a welcoming parkland for all to enjoy.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Paula McKinley, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. While many celebrate Memorial Day and July 4th with picnics and parades, Ms. McKinley personally purchased more than 800 U.S. flags and oversaw their installation, ensuring that we remember our history and honor those who gave their lives for us all.

Ron Luxenburg, Lake Braddock. The winter of 2015/16 was one for the record books. While most of us were home stranded, waiting for the plows to arrive, Mr. Luxenburg plowed his entire cul-de-sac, as well as his neighbors' driveways and sidewalks without being asked or paid. These efforts truly exhibit Mr. Luxenburg's generosity and passion for serving others.

Don Wallace. Mr. Wallace sits on the board of Food for Others and since 2008, has actively worked to educate the community about the need to donate food for thousands of Northern Virginians who might otherwise go hungry. He has personally organized the collection and transfer of donated food to the Food for Others warehouse. His efforts have resulted in more than 9 tons of food being donated to this worthwhile organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals and organizations and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the Braddock District and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANOVER FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Han-

over Fire Department in Pennsylvania on its 200th Anniversary.

The collective accomplishments of the staff and volunteers of the Hanover Fire Department truly are exceptional. Over the last 200 years, the Department's men and women helped to save countless lives and properties, and have made the Hanover area a safer and better place in which to live and work.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate the Hanover Fire Department on its 200th Anniversary and wish them continued great success and service in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE SHEDDEN

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Shedden who is the current President of the Tennessee School Boards Association. Debbie has been active at the local, state, and national levels of education for several years. She was named the Tennessee School Board Member of the Year in 2011 and received the Premier Ambassador Award from Tennessee School Boards Association in 2013 and 2014. In 2016 Tennessee Education Commissioner Dr. Candice McQueen reappointed Debbie to the Tennessee Task Force on Student Testing and Assessment. Debbie is also actively involved in the Rogersville Rotary Club and the Interact Club at Cherokee High School.

Debbie has dedicated herself to serving the students and communities of Hawkins County and Tennessee. I am proud to recognize Debbie for her commitment and work to improving education in Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MELISSA  
KEESEE FOR HER SERVICE

**HON. DENNIS A. ROSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on her retirement from federal service. Mrs. Melissa L. Keese, Paralegal Specialist, U.S. Special Operations Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (SOJA), MacDill AFB, Florida, is retiring after over 37 years of distinguished and dedicated federal service, the last 22 years serving in SOJA.

Mrs. Keese began her journey in federal service as a U.S. Army Civilian clerk with U.S. Southern Command, Republic of Panama. She then became a U.S. Air Force Civilian as secretary, U.S. Readiness Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She is a plank owner in U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as she transitioned into the standup of the command as a secretary, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She then traveled to Texas where she was a secretary with Air Education Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX and a secretary with Headquarters, U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, TX. Before returning to MacDill AFB, she became a secretary with the 81st Training Wing